

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in the present application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-2, 6, 8-10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over US 6,417,904 (Yamaoka) in view of JP 09-151627 (Isamu), claims 3-4 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Yamaoka in view of Isamu, further in view of US 6,475,714 (Arimoto), claims 5 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Yamaoka in view of Isamu, further in view of US 4,292,370 (Pekko), and claims 7 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Yamaoka in view of Isamu, further in view of WO 92/22002 (Hani).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

As set forth above in the Statement of Common Ownership, Applicants submit that the present application and U.S. Patent No. 6,417,904 to Yamaoka et al. (Yamaoka) were, at the time the invention of the present application was made, owned by the same company Nitto Denko Corporation, of Osaka, Japan.

Accordingly, Yamaoka is disqualified from being used as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) /103(a) for the present application. See MPEP 706.02(l)(2).

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejections should be withdrawn.

In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

In the event there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Serial Number: 10/006,790

Group Art Unit: 2871

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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